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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,656	01/15/2004	Marjorie Mossman Peffly	9144	5879

27752 7590 06/06/2008
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EXAMINER

BOYER, CHARLES I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1796

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/06/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,656

Applicant(s)

PEFFLY ET AL.

Examiner

Charles I. Boyer

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Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19 and 21-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19 and 21-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S5108)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to applicants' amendment and response received February 19, 2008. Claims 14-19 and 21-27 are currently pending.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file. The examiner has determined the instant claims are afforded a priority date of January 17, 2003 (the filing date of provisional application S.N. 60/441066). Specifically, the foreign priority reference does not support the claimed invention because there is no support for the ethoxylate level and the sulfate level presently claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 14-19, 21, and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Geary et al, US 2004/0157754.

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Geary et al teach a hair shampoo comprising 15% lauryl ether sulfate, 5% sodium lauryl sulfate, 0.25% polyquaternium-10 having a molecular weight of 2,000,000 and a charge density of 1.97 meq/g, 0.4% sodium citrate, 0.5% silicone nanoemulsion having a particle size of 37 nm, and the balance water (page 17, example 11). Note that the most preferred number of ethoxy groups in the alkyl ether sulfates of the invention is 3 (page 4, paragraph 37), which will result in an ethoxylate and sulfate level within the range presently claimed. As this reference meets all material limitations of the claims at hand, the reference is anticipatory.

Applicants have traversed this rejection on the grounds that the claims require a sulfate level which is in the amount of 0.42 multiplied by the charge density of the cationic cellulose polymer plus from about 1.1 to about 3.6. Nothing in Geary teaches or suggests this limitation, nor does Geary teach or suggest a relationship between ethoxylation levels and sulfate levels for the purpose of optimizing the surfactant system. The examiner acknowledges that the reference makes no mention of applicants' sulfate level calculations. However, the end result of these calculations is an extremely commonly used and commercially available alkyl ether sulfate surfactant. There are perhaps an infinite number of different ways one could make up to express an alkyl ether sulfate containing two or three ethoxy groups. Should all of these different ways

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to express a surfactant be patentable? As the reference contains the preferred components in the proportions claimed, the reference is anticipatory, whether it uses the precise claim language of applicants or not.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 14-19 and 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wire et al, US 6,524,563.

Wire et al teach a hair treatment composition comprising 4% lauryl ether sulfate, 0.3% polyquaternium-10 having a molecular weight of 1,800,000 and a charge density of 1.25 meq/g, 2% sodium chloride, 4% betaine, 0.4% polydimethylsiloxane having a particle size of 35 nm, 0.3% silica particles having a particle size of 7 to 40 nm, and the balance water (col. 18, example 3D). Note that the most preferred number of ethoxy groups in the alkyl ether sulfates of the invention is 2 or 3 (page 4, paragraph 37), which will result in an ethoxylate and sulfate level within the range presently claimed. Further note that preferred amounts of alkyl ether sulfate in these shampoos is 12 and 14% (examples 3B and 3C). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare a composition having higher amounts of SLES in example 3D and so render obvious the claims at hand.

Applicants have traversed this rejection for the same reasons set forth above and the examiner's response is the same.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles I. Boyer whose telephone number is 571 272 1311. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571 272 1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Charles I Boyer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1796

/Charles I Boyer/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796